

The Brethren Evangelist,

ASHLAND, OHIO.

A. D. GNAGEY, : : Editor.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1896.

Editorial.

CALLING A HALT.

The one great thing which the church and all religious societies must fight is *worldliness*, downright worldliness, which the Apostle declares is of the devil. Worldliness as the enemy of the church appears in a great many different forms. When one reads of the disgraceful "plays," "socials," or "entertainments" given by church societies, he must conclude that the church and the world have locked arms, and believers are unequally yoked with the powers of darkness. The church needs new carpet, a new organ, or perhaps it has failed to raise the preacher's salary. How shall the money be raised? It is decided to have an entertainment, which thing is all right and proper, if the honor and glory of God are kept in view. But here there is danger. To attract the worldly and unbelieving the entertainment is made to suit *their* tastes, no matter how anti-Gospel, or anti-Christian. The money is raised, the entertainment pronounced a success, but the church is lowered, and suffers more than if it had gone without an organ or without carpet. We do not object to entertainments given by the young people. They can be made a great success and do honor to the Master whom we serve. But great care must be exercised or the church may be put to open shame and lose its power and influence for good. The following items are taken from the editorial page of the *Christian Advocate* with the Editor's protest, and serve as examples of the ungodliness and harmful measures resorted to for the purpose of raising a little money. We here record our voice against these methods as unholy and harmful in the extreme. This one is from the *Epworth Herald*:

A news item has just been received at this office which makes us sad. Here it is: "The Epworth chapter at — gave a play at the Opera House last Friday evening, which netted us forty dollars. The acting was exceedingly well done for amateurs, and the audience expressed its pleasure by frequent bursts of applause.

Some of the leading citizens desire the play repeated in the near future." That Epworth chapter is unworthy of its name. We do not see how the pastor and League officers could have permitted it to become so disgraced. Such conduct is utterly out of harmony with the traditions and spirit of our organization, and a flagrant violation of our pledge. If our young friends imagine they have grown in the estimation of the worldly people who applauded their performance, they are mistaken. Even the world loves consistency, and soon loses respect for Christians whose conduct is on a plane with their own. It is charitable to assume that these young people went into the enterprise without much reflection, and without realizing how seriously their conduct would damage the cause they profess to serve. We hope the case is an isolated one. Let our young friends everywhere avoid the very appearance of evil.

Here is one from a newspaper:

"Willing Hands Circle, King's Daughters, of St. Peter's Church, gave a euchre party yesterday at Beethoven Hall. Stormy as was the day, there were over one hundred ladies present. There were thirty tables, and the game was a merry one. The prizes were elegant and well worth the winning."

Certainly. "Stormy" weather does not keep people from going to "euchre parties," but how about these 100 ladies at church service on a rainy, stormy day? What does the King think of such "daughters."

Then here is another:

"The Y. P. S. C. E. of the Presbyterian church gave a shadow social last evening. The young ladies, one by one, were placed behind a screen, and then the young gentlemen were invited to bid for the shadow. Prices ranged even as high as fifty-six cents. Supper went with the girl. It was a jolly party. The sixteen cent girl had better sandwiches than any of the others, and was only sorry that she could not turn more money into the treasury. It takes a pretty shrewd man to pick out his sweetheart when he has nothing but a silhouette to guide him. If the young ladies will show the full face and a sweet smile the next time, the receipts are likely to run up to sixty times six dollars."

To the above the Editor of the *Advocate* adds these words:

"It has not been long since we had to rebuke an Epworth League Club for selling young women by auction with the privilege of taking them out to lunch

tables, and a Methodist church for having a fair in which young converts climbed greased poles and caught greased pigs, etc. If these are not checked, the holy names of Christian Endeavor and King's Daughters may sink to be a byword for the ungodly."

True, every word. A society giving such "plays" and "socials," should strike out the word *Christian* from its name. It has no place there. The church and the various organizations connected with it, must, of course, remain in the world, but the *world* must not get into them. The ship in the sea is all right, even in the storm, but the sea in the ship is exceedingly dangerous. Keep worldliness out of the church. It is a heavy burden and will sink the ship. The Lord save our Young People's Societies from such ungodliness. Let us lift high the royal banner with the inscription, "Holiness to the Lord," all we are and have, consecrated to the service of the Master.

A BUSINESS CALCULATION.

Let us sit down together with pencil in hand and make a little calculation. Ready. Write in one column:

1. How much for tobacco in 1896?
2. How much for table luxuries, injurious to health?
3. How much for mere pleasure?
4. How much for the adornment of the body, to please the eyes of others rather than your own?
5. How much for jewelry?
6. How much for wedding presents for people who have their thousands?
7. How much for shows, entertainments, etc?
8. How much for all other useless articles?

Total, _____

In the other column put,

1. How much for your church?
2. How much for the church paper?
3. How much for the College?
4. How much for all other religious purposes?

Total, _____

Difference ——— in favor of which column?

Will the readers of the *EVANGELIST* please work out the above for their own special benefit?

WHEN one has come to seek the honor that comes from God only, he will take the withholding of the honor that comes from men very quietly.—*Macdonald*.